

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on line 13 of page 4:

The Schmidt-trigger 42 is an oscillator that is controlled by manipulating an RC time constant to exploit hysteresis of the Schmidt-trigger 42. An input terminal of an inverting operational amplifier 48/60 is connected to a series connection of a variable resistor 51 and a constant value resistor 54, thereby forming a negative feedback loop 57 between an output of the operational amplifier 48/60 and the inverting input terminal of the operational amplifier 48/60. The Schmidt-trigger 42 uses the operational amplifier 48/60 as a comparator along with positive feedback to create a hysteretic switch. The variable resistor 51 and the constant value resistor 54 control the current in the negative feedback loop 57, thereby causing the operational amplifier 48/60 to oscillate between a high output and a low output, thus creating a square wave. By varying resistance of the variable resistor 51, the frequency of the oscillation is controlled.

A transistor is a solid state device, inasmuch as transistors comprise semiconductor materials, which are characteristic of solid state devices. Accordingly, the Schmidt trigger 42 comprising a transistor is one type of solid state switching device.